

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ISO-00

AID-20 PC-10 DRC-01 /129 W

----- 120871

R 282115Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6167

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 381

GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, CA

SUBJECT: REGIONAL MEETINGS

REF: GUATEMALA 467

1. CABEI PRESIDENT ORTEZ COLINDRES RECENTLY MENTIONED CABEI GOVERNORS MEETING IN SALVADOR TO AMB AND DCM AND SAID HE HOPED THAT MINECON BENNATON'S ATTENDANCE ON JAN 28 WOULD IMPRIVE CLIMATE WITH SALVADOR.

2. IN RESPONSE TO VARIOUS QUESTIONS, ORTEZ EVOLVED INTERESTING POINT OF VIEW ON GOH REGIONAL POSITION TO EFFECT THAT IT WOULD NOW BECOME MORE COOPERATIVE. HE CITED FOLLOWING REASONS:

(A) SURROUNDING THREE GOVERNMENTS ARE NERVOUS ABOUT GOH REFORMS, WHICH THEY FEAR MIGHT HAVE LOCAL REPERCUSSIONS. GOH IS AWARE OF THIS APPREHENSION, AND TO ASSUAGE THEM IT WILL DELIBERATELY TRY TO BE MORE COOPERATIVE ON REGIONAL
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MATTERS.

(B) BENNATON PERSONALLY IS SHOWING SIGNS OF ACTIVISM IN AREA, REFLECTING HIS CACM BACKGROUND.

(C) GOH IS CONSCIOUS OF NEED TO DEAL ON AREA-WIDE BASIS WITH URGENT INFLATIONARY PROBLEM PRIMARILY ARISING FROM PETROLEUM.

(D) GOH MINISTERS HAVE BEEN LEARNING THAT POTENTIAL OUTSIDE INVESTORS IN "BIG" PROJECTS, SUCH AS STEEL PELLET AND PULP AND PAPER MILLS, INSIST THAT GOH SHOULD BE PART OF CACM.

3. HE IS THUS SANGUINE ABOUT CURRENT POSITIVE MOTIVATION OF GOH IN THIS AREA, WHILE ADMITTING SERIOUS BLOCKING TO THIS REPRESENTED BY SALVADOR PROBLEM.

4. COMMENT: WHILE ORTEZ' POLITICAL ASSESSMENTS ARE NOT ALWAYS IMPECCABLE, WE THINK THAT HIS REASONING IN THIS CASE IS PLAUSIBLE. AT ANY RATE IT SUPPORTS MAYORGA'S HOPES EXPRESSED IN REFTTEL.
SANCHEZ

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